TRAIL

CHECK LIST

CULTURAL STUDIES RESEARCH OUTLINE

Acc No. 306

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PREFACE

This Research Outline has been produced to assist you in investigating the culture in which you are working. It gives a means by which you can organize you cultural data or notes. It will also help you fill the gaps in your knowledge of the culture.

The Research Outline is an adaption of a similar document from the Australian Aborigines Branch. with changes and additions to make it more relevant to work in South Asia. These changes were suggested at a Cultural Studies Seminar in Murree in September. 1985.

Reference has been given to Murdock Numbers. These are categories listed in Outline of Cultural Materials by G.Murdock. By combining the Outline and the Murdock listings. you will find many suggestions for further investigating the culture of the people with whom you are working. Not all of the Murdock categories are used in this Outline. since Murdock's categories reflect data from over 300 societies and hence is of broader scope that this Outline.

A Glossary of Terms has been included in the Outline to assist you to understand terms that may arise from time to time in your reading. You may also wish to use some of them when you write cultural data papers.

I would welcome any comments you have on the usefulness of this Outline as you make reference to it in your program. Please submit any suggestions you may have for improvements or revision.

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CHECK LIST - CULTURAL RESEARCH OUTLINE

	Murdock Numbers
I. ECONOMICS	
A. ECOLOGY	
1. Description of Environment	131
Geographical location. including map showing fields. canals. nearby towns. resources. restrictions in environment. Degree of contact with other areas and language groups.	102
How many people can the locality support?	
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What plants and animals (domestic) have been introduced?	137

B. TECHNOLOGY

1. Subsistence (income generating)

(a) Occupation

Are the people wage earners?
farmers?
nomadic herders?
share croppers?
business operators?
craftsmen

(b) Tools and methods

What tools are used by males?
by females?
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How are the materials obtained?
Who makes tools? 391

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Does this play an important part in food supply?

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warmth	ceremonial	373
light	protection (from spirits?)	374
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hunting	sorcery	
preparing skins	medical	
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eg: religious specialists
craftsmen
"lowly" work (eg: sweepers)
healing
midwifery

How does one become a specialist?
How is he/she rewarded for the work? 465
How important are specialists to the group? 554

(iv) Migration of labour

Does anyone go to cities to work? 221
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(v) Other income

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2. NON-SUBSISTENCE (income using)

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What makes them so? (size, materials used)

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-walls
-dividing walls 353
-roofing

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What are the different rooms used for?

Does more than one family live in a house?

What position is used for the site? Why?

How are houses arranged in the village/town?
(circle, streets, clusters) 361
Is the arrangement relevant? (eg: all one extended family together, rich in one section of town) 362

Are any houses separate from others? Why?

(b) Clothing/Apparel 291

What is the type of clothing worn by men, women, children, babies?
When is nakedness considered proper? (children, special activities)

When do children begin wearing clothes?

Do boys and girls have different clothing?

Are clothing fashions changing?

Does the group have a special clothing style that distinguishes them from other groups? 292

What constitutes modesty?
Does this vary with sex and age?
Is there a symbolic modesty? (eg: purdah, dupata, head covering)

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Who repairs it? How?

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(c) Personal Adornment 300

(i) What types of personal adornment are used?
Body adornment -tatooing
-ear/nose piercing 304
-hair colouring - religious 305
- beauty
-body painting (black eyeliner, henna) 302

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What charms, thread, ornaments or amulets are worn?

Are there any decorations special to the group?

(ii) When are adornments worn? 301
-special occasions
-all the time

What age are they worn?
What sex uses which adornments?

(iii) What are the functions of adornments?
-beautification
-religious
-ceremonial
-wedding 554
-celebration
-display of wealth

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What (if any) is the significence of beards?
What shaving customs are followed?
Is head shaving done? Why?

(d) Art/Creativity 530

What kinds of arts/crafts are practised? 320

Carving	Pottery	Rug/carpet making	517
Painting	Embriodery	Jewellery making	
Weaving	Quilting	Silver work	

Who are the artists? (men. women. specialists)

Are children being taught any of the forms?

What function does art have? (pleasure. decoration. ceremonial. religious. money-making)

(e) Music and Musical instruments 534

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Is dancing done solo or as a group?
Who is allowed to participate?
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(g) Drama 536

Is drama performed?
Why? When?
What themes are portrayed?

(h) Poetry/Literature

Is there a written tradition or an oral tradition or both? 538
What types of stories are written? (romantic. ethical)
Who tells stories?
Who can listen to stories?
Who writes stories?
What characters usually feature in stories? (animals. gods. men)

C. ECONOMIC PROCESS

1. Wealth and its Distribution

(a) How is wealth acquired?
How is wealth distributed?
How is wealth stored? (bank, jewellery, other investment) 453
What are the symbols of wealth?
What is the reaction of people to wealth?

(b) Describe the exchange system. 430

What is exchanged?
What is the direction of the flow of goods?
What groups are involved in exchange?
What individuals within the group are involved in exchange?
Is there a certain pattern of giving? (eg: between certain relationships)
Is there an obligation to give when asked?
What reasons do people give for exchanges made?
What happens if exchanges are not made?

What gifts are given? When are gifts given? 431
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(c) Describe the money system.

What place does money have in the economy? 437
What place does government subsidy or aid have in the economy?

(d) Is there a bride price system? If so, describe it. 432
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(e) How are a person's possessions disposed of at his death?
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Who lends money?
How much interest is charged?
What is the effect of borrowing in the group?

2. Division of Labour

What is the basis of the division of labour?
-age 561
-sex 462
-status (caste, tribe) 564
Who does what and why?
Do areas of speciality exist or is each family an economic entity in itself?

How do ecological conditions or social aspects affect the division of labour?

In analysing the economic structure, describe how it is related to other aspects of the culture. Try to determine how changes in the culture are introduced.

II. IDEOLOGY

Ideology frequently takes the form of religion which may be viewed as a realm of experience and practise dealing with spirit forces and personalities. In some societies, there seems to be very little separation between "sacred" and "secular". Try to determine if this is a feature of the society in which you work.
What things are considered secular and what are considered sacred? 780 790

A. Magic

(a) What superstitions do the people have? 789
- black eye/evil eye 774
- putting old pot in a house 777
- the naming process
- seeing the face of a dead person

(b) Are any ceremonies performed in conjunction with these beliefs?

(c) Are any people specific practitioners for these types of ceremony? (exorcists, sharmans) 791

What powers do peers have? 792

Are amulets worn for protection or healing? 778

B. Ritual and ceremony 788

(a) What is the purpose of ritual and ceremony?
What are the various types of ritual and ceremony?
Are they held at regular times? (eg: particular time of year or month)

(b) What ceremonies are associated with rites of passage?
- birth
- marriage 760
- death

(c) What ceremonies are associated with illness? 754
What are the consequences if these ceremonies are not followed?

C. Sorcery

(a) What are the beliefs and practices surrounding sorcery? 754
eg: blowing or burning out sickness 755
transferring or absorbing sickness
use of amulets for healing or protection

(b) Is sorcery practised openly or is it suppressed and "underground"? 754
Is it considered good?
Are there good and bad kinds of sorcery?

(c) What place do any of the following have:-
-incarnations for healing
-fortune telling 772
-palm reading
-astrology (eg: for setting dates for weddings)

(d) Are herbal medicines used? If so, are they seem as part of sorcery or as a legitimate medical practice? 757

D. The Human Soul

(a) What are the basis parts of man? 812
What is the function of these individual parts?
What is their origin?

(b) Are certain parts of the body good?
Are others considered bad?

(c) Does man have several natures?
eg: a higher or better nature
a lower or worse nature

(d) Is man's soul or spirit ethical?
How does a man know wrong doing? 812
673

(e) Does a person have only one spirit or one soul? 776
Do women have spirits or souls?

(f) With what part of the body does one think?
feel
love
hate
desire

Are thinking and desiring related?
What is the seat of the emotions? (heart, liver, spleen, intestines)

(g) Can a human soul become a spirit? 776
Do human souls become good spirits, or bad spirits?
When a man dreams, does his spirit or soul wander? 787
What is the place of dreams?

Does a man's spirit leave his body during sickness or fever? 753

(h) Can a person lose his soul or his spirit?
How does this happen?
Does the taking of photographs have any meaning in the context of a man losing his soul or spirit? 755

Is there any type of spiritual sickness?

(i) Where are the souls of the dead?
At death, what happens to the soul? 769
Does the behaviour of a person in this life have an effect on what happens after death?
Is there a belief in rebirth or incarnation?
Are there acts/behaviours that can gain reward after death? 782

(j) What is the mode of burial preferred?
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Is there any belief in a 'purgatory' stage after death?

(k) Can the soul of the dead be dangerous to relatives?
Will the soul of the dead harm one's enemies? 776
Can a soul come back and possess someone?
What happens when a person is possessed in this way?

(l) What shape do spirits have? Human? Animal? 776

(m) Peers
What power does a living peer have? A dead peer? 792
Can a dead peer possess people?
How is peership passed on?
How does one become a peer?
Are some peers more respected than others? Why?

E. The Spirit World 776

1. Is there more than one spirit?
What types of spirits are there?
Are there spirits of different power?
Is there a hierarchy among spirits?
(eg: angels, devils, djins)

2. Are certain places recognized as the habitation of spirits?
(eg: empty houses)

3. Does the spirit have a special name?
(eg: 4 main angels of Islam, gods, djins, devils)
What does the name mean?
How did he get the name?
Are there good and bad fairies?

4. With what is a spirit compared?
shadow
smoke
steam
ghost
fire
dream apparition
person

Is the spirit moral?
immoral
wicked
amoral

5. Do spirits partake of food?
(eg: feast for the dead at a funeral)
Do spirits speak or touch?

6. Can a spirit be controlled by man? 776
What kind of men can control spirits?
By what means is this control exercised?
-magic
-special words
-ceremonies
-rituals
-sacrifices
-prayer
-through other spirits?

How can a spirit be reconciled? 782
Can one have spirit help to do harm?
Can one destroy a spirit?
How do spirits act if they are upset by man?

7. Can a spirit be both good and evil?
Does he play pranks on people?
Does he try to scare people?
Is the spirit favourable to men?
Does he resist evil people?

Does he ever attack people?
Does he invade men through illness?
through death?
through misfortune?

Why does a spirit do harm to men?
Why does a spirit do kind things to men?
Do spirits ever steal the soul of a man?
Can a spirit destroy the body?

8. How does a spirit get entrance to a body? 776
Are there special states which make it easier for a spirit to gain entrance? (eg: trance. dancing)

How does one know the presence of a spirit in the body?
- insanity
- speech defects
- interpretation 774
- special bodily strength 785
- strange behaviour (eg: epilepsy) 787
- spiritual perception
- spiritual insighs

9. What is the relationship between the indwelling spirit and man's own spirit or soul?

F. The Universe 820

Much of this information can be found in the myths and legends rather than by direct questioning.

1. From where does this world come? 823
When was it made?
Who made it?

What shape does the world have?
- flat
- round
- spherical

2. Is there an underworld?
- depths
- hell
- Sheol 776
- underground 778

How did it get there?
Is it populated?
Have people from the underworld ever visited this present world?
Do people from this world ever go to the underworld?
What is it like in the underworld?

3. Are there any higher worlds? (eg: heaven)
Where are they located?
How does one get there?
Can living people go there?
Is there an entrance? What form does it take?
Does one need a ladder to get there?
Are there any guards?

Who lives in the upperworld?
What are the living conditions there? 778

4. From where do people come?

5. Do spirit beings have any special relationship with birds or animals?
(eg: gods with shape of different animals
snake worship
snake gods)

Which animals are associated with different spirits?

6. From where do earthly phonemona come? 823
   animals 824
   plants 825
   metals
   physical features

7. Why are some animals enemies of men?

8. From where do heavenly phenomena come? 821
   moon hail earthquake
   stars fog
   clouds frost
   rain wind

   What does the milky way mean?
   Are the sun and moon related?
   What is the rainbow?
   Does it have special significance?

9. How many seasons are there? 221
   How are they distinguished from one another? 821

10. How is the earth made fertile?
    Is there any relationship between human fertility and soil fertility? 824

    Can fertility be increased? How?

    Does the earth give its products willingly?
    Are there special harvest or planting rituals?

G. Sin

1. What is good and what is bad? 670
   (It might be productive to ask for the 10 greatest sins and the 10 greatest good things?) 680

   Can deeds be seen as good or bad? 689

   Is badness related to morality? 688
   to the law?

   Will good and bad deeds bring natural results in reward or judgement?

2. What offences are punished and how? 680

   Does the individual punish or avenge wrong?
   What crimes and wrong does a family punish? 689
   What is punished by the wider group?
   How is punishment done? 698
   Does punishment have any kind of religious sanction? 688

3. Are there any sanctions against wrong doers in
   the family 689
   the village
   the larger society (eg: ignore them.
   don't eat with them.
   banish them)

4. How does one determine guilt?
   -witness of others 797
   -confession
   -sharman vision
   -prophet
   -supernatural ordeal
   -group decision

5. Are there any expressions of
   forgiveness
   repentance
   revenge? 783

6. For what reason would gods or spirits punish man? 776
   during life? 696
   after death?

7. Are the gods or spirits concerned about morality?
   Do they watch over the regularity of worship? 776

8. Can a man expect judgement in the world to come?
   From whom?
   For what? 696
   For how long? 783

   Is there any grading of punishment?
   How does one know what sins are worse than others? 680
   Can one become punishable through ignorance?
   (cf. five pillars of Islam)

   Will good deeds be rewarded?
   Which deeds get social recognition?

9. Is there any distinction between the holy and the profane? 778
   Is there a distinction between holiness and goodness?

10. What conception of the afterworld do people have? 769
    What type of life do they pursue?

    Does one's expectations of life after death have any
    relationship to behaviour in life?
    to social or economic conditions?
    to the manner of death?

11. Can judgement and punishment in the beyond be prevented? 782
    783

    Is there any kind of atonement?
    Can the gods forgive?
    Do the spirits ever forgive?
    Are there certain wrongs that cannot be forgiven? Why?
    What are they?

H. Taboo 784

The term 'taboo' should be limited to describing a prohibition resting on some magics religious sanction, infringement of which brings punishment automatically.

1. What things are considered taboo?

   (a) Are there taboo persons?
   -menstrous women
   -women after childbirth
   -persons connected in some way with a death
   or funeral
   -strangers

   (b) Are there caste taboos?

   (c) Are there taboo animals?

   (d) Are there taboo objects?
   (blood, sweat, sputum, faeces, ceremonial objects
   or designs)

(e) Are there taboo words or names?
(names of spirits or gods: special words used in ceremony or in magic or sorcery: are there taboo numbers?)

(f) Are there taboo actions?
(eating and drinking certain things: talking to certain people)

2. How did these taboos originate?

Were certain taboos established by the gods?
Do some taboos come through some supernatural experience or vision?
Do some objects become taboo through special ceremonial use?
Do some objects become taboo through contact with a taboo object or person?

3. How does a taboo manifest itself? Must it not be touched. Must it not be touched. looked at mentioned. harmed. eaten?

4. How long does a taboo last?
Does it last forever?
If temporary. how long and why?

5. What happens if a taboo is violated?

From where does punishment come - the gods. spirits. inherent power in the taboo object?

Is there any relationship between taboo and morality?

6. What is the relationship between 'taboo' and 'holy'?

Is there any difference between holy things and unclean things?
Who has the power to make things holy or taboo?
Can holiness or taboo be passed on through prayer?
Can the power to make things holy or taboo be passed on?

May one use the name(s) of gods or of certain spirits for oaths? For swearing? For curses?

MYTHOLOGY

A major part of any ideological system is often revealed through the mythology which may give clues to why things are as they are now. Mythology can function as history. It may be the key to understanding social relationships. and also convey certain basic cultural attitudes and values. 773

You may be able to include a myth that is significant and explain why it is significant for better understanding of the culture. Describe the basic theme or moral of the tale and how cultural attitudes are reflected in this. Relate myths to these ritual expressions.

How does the ideological system relate to other aspects of the culture?
How does it affect or be affected by the ecological setting. economic structure. kinship system. social structure or political organization?
Remember that culture is a whole system with all its parts interrelated to benefit its members.

III KINSHIP 590
600

Our primary concern regarding this aspect of culture is interpersonal relationships: who interacts with whom, where and why? Under study here too are relationships or kin terms. What kin terms are used for whom and what type of interpersonal behaviour or interaction does each term imply? 610

A good guide to finding out about kinship is Alan Healey's 'Language Learner's Field Guide'. sections 14.1b. 14.4d&e: 13.1. 13.2b. 13.3f. 13.4b: 39.3c and 39.4d.

Charts and diagrams are especially valuable for organizing kinship data and presenting it in a more concise and understandable way. In your data paper you will need to include explanations in prose form along with your diagrams.

1. What kin relationship seems to be dominant and why does it appear so? 601 611

2. In what ways does the interaction inherent in this kin term affect other relationships? 611
   How does it affect other cultural aspects?

3. What is decisive in determining kin? 613
   eg: blood ties and geneologies?
   location of birth?
   Demonstrate fully how this works.

4. How are orphans cared for? 614
   Are children ever adopted? 608
   How frequently? 597
   From what relationships are they adopted?

5. Who in the society is qualified to:
   -make changes in customs?
   -disseminate new information?
   -present supernatural truth? 621
   -judge violations of the law? 626
   -have power over the spirits? 627
   -counteract sorcery?
   -heal the sick?
   -mediate in family problems?

6. Who listens to whom about supernatural truths?

7. Which relatives will listen to which other relatives?
   eg: Will men listen to boys? younger men? women? 602
   to European men? European women?
   Will older women listen to younger women?
   Will women listen to men? 596

8. What roles are outsiders assigned? 609
   What sort behaviour is expected for each role?
   What advantages or disadvantages does each role have in communicating new ideas?

   To what degree must one become an insider to the culture to be heard in the community?

IV. SOCIAL STRUCTURE 560 570

Discovery for the terms for interpersonal relationships and the behaviour and emotive meanings inherent in them should provide the needed clues to further areas which may be studied in order to determine how the society organizes itself into groups.

In your attempt to gain insight into group structure, try to determine the following:-

A. Structure and Function of Groups.

1. What vernacular terms designate grouping?

2. What are the functions of the various groups?

3. Who is included in each terminological group?

4. What types of relationships do group members have?

5. What does it mean to be a member? (ie: what types of behaviour are expected from members) 577

6. Are there culturally recognized groups that are not terminologically indicated?
   If so, describe their structure (what relationship members have) and function (how members interact with each other and with other groups).

B. Organization of Groups

1. Is there a hierarchical ranking of groups?
   (ie: do smaller groups fit into larger ones?)
   560

2. What is the rationale for the organization of groups
   (eg: descent, place of birth, residence group, age, sex) 567

3. What type of interaction is there between groups?

C. Discuss the place of marriage within the society. 580

1. Is marriage an individual or a group affair? 582

2. Is there any kind of culturally defined preference for choice of partner? (eg: are there certain relatives whom one is forbidden to marry or whom one is obliged to marry? are there certain groups one can or cannot marry into?) 582

3. Who makes the choice of partner? 584
   Are the bride and groom allowed free to choose their partners?

4. What is the procedure for an engagement to occur? 584
   -Are middlemen used?
   -Are there any matchmakers?
   -Do engagements of children occur?

5. What, if any, are the courting procedures?

6. At what age does marriage usually occur? 582
   Does this differ from town to village?
   What age is too late for marriage?

7. What, if any, are the prerequisites for marriage?

8. Describe the marriage ceremony. 585

9. Is there a bride price? Who contributes to it?

10. Is there an exchange of gifts? Who gives what to whom?

11. Are courtship and\or marriage customs changing?

12. How strong is the marriage relationship?
How do people describe it?
Is the wife considered lower or on the same level as the husband?

13. Is there antagonism between men and women?
If so, how does it exhibit itself?

14. What is the prime reason for marriage? 581
What do people expect from marriage?

15. Are provisions made for dissolving a marriage? 586
What are the reasons for divorce?
Who initiates the action?
What affect does it have upon the groups originally involved?

What happens to any bride price if divorce occurs? 586
What effect does it have on the children concerned?
Can a divorced man or woman remarry? When?

16. How do people treat adultery?
How is adultery punished?
Who does the punishment and how?

17. What is the situation of the widow or widower? 587
Can a widow marry? Whom?
Does a widow return to her family?
Who supports her children?
Where do her children live?

18. Are there persons who never marry? 589
What is the reason?
What is the social status of the unmarried?

(See also Section VI E)

How does an understanding of social structure shed light on other aspects of the culture?

V. POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

A. Intra-Group Government (local laws and values) 620 630

In every society there are locally recognized limits of proper behaviour although these may not be explicitly defined. Violations of proper behaviour such as incest, sorcery, breaches of social custom, sacrilege, etc. are usually considered against the public, moral order. Violations such as murder, theft, adultery, wounding, failure to pay debts, etc. are often perceived to be against individuals. The wronged individual will often feel hurt or angry and the society may expect him to initiate action against the violator. 670

1. Violations 670 680

What is the local list of public and private violations?

To help in learning these things, you may need to answer other questions, such as: 673 689

(i) How do people define disruptive behaviour?

(ii) When and why do people feel offended, unfairly treated, or exploited?

(iii) What makes them seek revenge?

(iv) What do they think is fair?

(v) What sorts of offences do they believe cause illness or injurious accidents?

(vi) What do people consider the 10 worst sins?

2. Punishments 690

Every society has ways of punishing wrong doing. These "negative santions" include:

(a) punishment by a supernatural being (as in the Christian view of God's judgement or the Hindu view of rebirth) 688

(b) automatic punishment (eg: possible death from a speeding car)

(c) punishment from the society as a whole (eg: jail or banishment, cut off from fellowship) 689

(d) required payments to wronged individuals.

A society may use one or more of these for any particular violation. 626

(a) What punishments are used against various types of wrongs you have listed? 696

(b) How is violation determined? 694

(c) How is punishment determined? 695

(d) How does the local (or tribal) court system relate to the government courts? 698

(e) How effective are the punishments in controlling disruptive behaviour?

(f) Which violations are most common? 680

(g) Which violations are perceived to be causing the most disruption at present?

(h) Are there certain periods of license when certain types of usually condemned behaviour is allowed? (eg: revenge or retribution - "eye for an eye")

(i) What behaviour is considered very good in society?

(j) What are the characteristics of the ideal man?

(k) What positive sanctions encourage individuals to follow this ideal (eg: respect from other people and society in general, blessings from the supernatural or other types of authority.)

(l) To what degree is an outsider living in the community expected to follow these rules of behaviour?

(m) To what extent must he/she follow them to have influence in the community or to be listened to?

B. Inter-group Politics

620

In interacting with other groups. the society needs representatives. 628
640

1. Who are the leaders of the group?

2. How are leaders identified?

3. What are the qualities of a leader?

4. How are group decisions made?

5. Is there intermarriage between groups?

6. How does this affect intergroup relationships?

VI. SOCIALIZATION AND LIFE STYLE

A society, to maintain its existence. must impart to all its new members its prescribed patterns of behaviour. its ideology and values and. in short. all aspects which constitute its unique system of living. In order to accomplish this each society has established prescribed methods for such socialization. Related to these processed and the various stages of the life cycle in general are numerous associated beliefs that give insight into the whole of the people's world view. The following questions will aid you in becoming familiar with the methods of socialization as well as the various associated beliefs.

A. Conception and Birth 840

1. Who is the first to know when a woman is pregnant? 843
How does he/she know?
Who is told next?
What actions can be done to help a woman become pregnant?
What actions cause barrenness?
How is barrenness viewed?

2. What restrictions must a woman or her husband observe during pregnancy? 843
Are there foods prescribed during pregnancy?
Are there foods proscribed during pregnancy?

3. Who may be present at the delivery? 844
What precautions must be taken?
What causes difficult. premature. death births? 845
What causes twins and how are they treated? 846
What is the attitude to deformed babies? 847
What is done with the afterbirth. unbilical cord. navel? 846

4. Where does the baby get its name?
Who names it?
When? 852
Does he receive more than one name?
Is there a naming ceremony? 551
Is the ceremony different for boys and girls? 553
Are there customs after birth to affect growth or appearance of the infant (eg: to change shape of head. binding up tightly)

5. How is illegitimacy viewed? 848

B. Weaning and Toilet Training

1. When and how is a child weaned? 853
Can a woman become pregnant while she is weaning? 862
May she have sexual relations?
Can the mothers milk be destroyed or damaged?
What causes inadequate milk supply?

2. How, when and by whom is a child toilet trained? 863

C. Children 650

1. How many children are usually desire by women? by men?
Is birth control practised and how?

2. With whom does the child have the most intimate relationships? 851
How is love shown toward a child?
Who takes care of children? 855
Who trains and teaches them? 857

3. How are boys and girls treated differently? 858
Which are preferred?
Which are considered smarter?
What is viewed as children's work or expected of them?
In what activities can they participate?
What instructions do they receive before puberty? 864
What are they expected to know or not know?
How much freedom are they allowed?
At what age are they largely responsible for themselves? 866

4. How are children protected from illness? 751
How is the death of a child viewed? 761
768

D. Boys and Young Men 880

1. How does a boy become a young man? 881
At what age?
Is any ceremony involved?

2. When does a boy begin to have sex relations? 833
With whom? 864
When does he become ready for marriage?

3. What characteristics do women look for in a man?
What is called handsome in a man?

4. What are the responsibilities of the youth: 882
-in the family? 883
-in the society?
-in work?

E. Girls and Young Women

1. How does a girl become a young woman and ready for marriage? 881
Is her first menstration of significance? 841

2. What instructions does a girl receive?
Who gives these instructions?

3. What are the qualities one looks for in a young woman?
What is considered beautiful?

4. How does courtship take place?
Who takes the initiative? 584
What type of contact is permitted between sexes before marriage?

5. Do parents seek to protect the girl? 833
Is virginity an ideal?
If the ideal is not realized. how is it rationalized?
How is a non-virgin unmarried woman treated? 875

6. What is done to a premarital child? 836
What is done to an extramarital child? 837

7. Do all girls get married? 589
Are there unmarried women?
Why did they not marry?

F. Adults 885

1. Are there degrees of maturity?
Are distinctions made in terms of power. knowledge. wisdom. wealth. certain abilities?
How are these acquired?
How are these related to prestige?

2. How are leaders chosen or recognized?
Is leadership sought?
Is it openly sought?
How is it lost?

3. How do men and women compare in terms of leadership?
Do men and women have equal opportunity to voice opinions or give advice?

4. How is supernatural power acquired? 781
Is it available to both sexes? 792

5. Who passes on knowledge to children. formally and informally? 867
875

6. What is the status of widows and widowers?

G. Old People 887
888

1. What is the attitude towards old age?
Are old people honoured?
Are they ignored or ridiculed?
Are they considered wise or as having authority?

2. Do grandparents have responsibility for grandchildren?

3. What are the responsibilities of the old people in the home?
Do they have a role in the child training? 867
Do they have a role in festivities?

4. Why do people get old?
Are old people dangerous to children? 886
How is senility viewed?

5. Why do women stop menstrating?
May a woman continue to have sexual relations after her menopause? 841
At what age are men considered no longer able to father children?

6. Are old people seen as story tellers? 887
Do younger people respect the aged? 888

H. Death and Burial 760

1. What are seen as causes of death? 763
   Are there spiritual causes of death?

2. At what point does the soul leave the body on death?
   Where does it go?
   May souls of the dead do damage?
   How can one protect himself against them?

3. How are people buried? 764
   Where are they buried?
   How soon after death does burial take place?
   What happens to a persons belongings? Are they buried with them? or destroyed?
   Is the corpse decorated or treated in any special way?
   Is the body placed in a special way?
   Is he body placed in a special position in the grave?
   How deep must the grave be dug?

4. Who arranges the funeral?
   What must the widow or the widower do?
   What do other relatives do?

5. How long does the mourning period last? 765
   What signs of mourning do a man. a woman. a child or other relatives have?
   Are there restrictions on colour of clothing worn during the mourning period?
   Are there any foods taboo during mourning?

6. How long must one wait before one can remarry after the death of a marriage partner? 768

It should be evident from what has already been covered that no area of the society can be satisfactorily described in violation without considering some other area of society. They all interrelate to form the whole of culture. Crutial overall questions include:-

1. How do people view each of the main cultural aspects listed?

2. What are the rules for operation within the society and what is the rationale for these rules?

3. How does each aspect of the culture further relate to other aspects of it?

VII. APPLICATION

Although understanding the main aspects of a culture is valuable in and of itself. acquiring this understanding is only a means to an end. We must go beyond the mere knowledge we have acquired and apply it to our total program.

A. Personal Application

1. How does our presence in the area affect change?

2. Sress is a two way street acting on you and the people. By understanding how the culture works. how can you best live and assist the people in order to reduce the stress of culture change on them produced by contact with outside agencies. including yourself?

3. What should be your place in the community?
How do you fit into the system of relationships recognized by the culture?
In order to be effective, you cannot remain aloof. You must not only understand the culture but must somehow fit into it.

4. How does your behaviour, and treatment of the people compare with their perception of the ideal man?
Will you carry influence because you have gained respect and admiration as such?

5. From your analysis of both inside and outside roles possible in this culture, which role have you tried to take in the past?
Which role or roles do you feel the people have assigned you?
Is this the role that is, best for you with your personal strengths and limitations?
Is this the most effective role for communicating or having the Scriptures accepted or for meeting the felt needs of the people?

6. If you plan to change your role, what plans do you have to compensate for the weakness inherent in the role you have taken?

B. Application to Literacy

1. (a) Who should be included early trial literacy?

(b) How should literacy be approached ie: what rationale should be followed?

(c) How much interest is there in literacy? Why?

(d) What used can literacy have in their lives?

(e) How can vernacular literacy help their aspirations for change?

(f) What uses need to be pointed out to them to motivate them to learn to read?

2. (a) How does the culture provide for the introduction of such 'new' ideas or processes?

(b) At what point (if any) should large scale literacy be conducted?

(c) How does the socialization (learning) process of the culture relate to your literacy materials?

(d) Who would be respected as literacy instructors?

Following the local approved methods for introducing new things, going through the proper people and recognizing their culturally defined authority may be crucial to your success or failure.

C Application to Translation

1. Key Terms

Acquiring key terms is crucial to our task. We must look for terms in their linguistic and cultural contexts and apply these to the new Scriptural contexts. We must get the best words, and use different words for the same source text word in various contexts. The terms we use will effect the way people will view Christianity. Wrong terms or usage will skew meaning and result in misunderstanding.

List some key terms for which you feel you already have satisfactory equivalents.

List some terms for which you have found no equivalents at all.

2. What to Translate?

(a) What basis needs of the people are answered in the Scriptures? For example, there might be a great concern with sickness and death and life after death. By translating some of Christ's experiences with the sick and dead, the people can see that the Scriptures have a relevance for them personally.

(b) Which passages should be translated early so that people can relate Scripture to their culture?

3. Translation Methods

(a) Whom should you use as translation helpers? Who you choose may effect how the people accept the translation.

(b) Should you check the translation with a large committee to ensure its acceptance or are the people happy to accept the work of just a few key people?

(c) How should the translation be introduced: cassettes, reading to large groups, or to individuals, or ensuring that people read it themselves the first time?

Again, the cultural attitudes concerning new material may be crutial to the acceptance of the translation.

D. Application to Witness

Our lives are constantly being watchd and judged through the emic grid of those around us. Their conclusions may effect the acceptance of the translations we produce.

1. What problems have you encountered in trying to demonstrate Christian love and ethics in this community?

2. (a) What felt needs can the gospel meet in this culture?

(b) What Bible passages might be meaningful in meeting these needs?

(c) When do you plan to translate these passages?

(d) How do you plan to show their relevance to the culture?

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Affinal relatives: Persons related through a marriage tie.

Ambilineal descent: The tracing of one's ancestry through one forebear, either a male or a female, in each generation.

Ambilocal extended family: A three-generation social unit composed of the senior married couple, their unmarried children, if any, and the spouses and children of married sons and daughters.

Ambilocal residence: Residence of a married couple with or near either the husband's parents or the wife's parents.

Avunculocal extended family: A three-generation social unit that includes a senior married couple and the senior male's sister's son with his wife and children.

Avunculocal residence: Residence of a married couple with or near the husband's mother's brother.

Band: A small nomadic community, typical of hunting and gathering societies.

Bifurcate merging kinship terms: Terms of reference that include one's father and father's brother under the same term and/or one's mother and her sister under the same term, while referring to one's mother's brother and/or father's sister by separate terms.

Bilateral descent: Reckoning oneself as having descended from all male and female forebears in each ancestral generation.

Bilinear kin group: A category of persons who belong to the same patrilineal and matrilineal groups.

Clan: A unilineal descent group of sufficient genealogical depth that members are unable to trace all of the relationships to the remote common ancestor.

Consanguineal relatives: Persons who are culturally defined as biologically related to one another.

Corporate group: A group whose members share rights in land or other property.

Cross cousins: Cousins related to one another through the father's sister or the mother's brother.

Crow kinship terminology: Lumping members of a person's father's matrilineal descent group under a term for males and a term for females without regard to generation differences.

Deme: A strongly endogamous community whose members are genetically related to all or nearly all the rest of the group.

Double descent: The existence of both patrilineal and matrilineal descent groups in the same society, each person belonging to one of each type.

Duolocal residence: Residence of husband and wife in separate households.

Endogamy: Marriage to someone within one's own group.

Eskimo kinship terminology: The use of one term or set of terms for brothers and sisters and the lumping of both parallel and cross under the same term or set of terms.

Exogamy: Marriage to someone outside of one's group.

Extended family: A three-generation social unit incorporating a senior married couple and at least some of their offspring with spouses children. or the senior male's sister's son with his wife and children.

Generation kinship terminology: The use of the same terms for uncles and aunts as for one's parents.

Hawaiian kinship terminology: The use of the same terms of reference for both parallel and cross cousins as for brothers and sisters.

Iroquois kinship terminology: Use of reference terms which lump parallel cousins under the same term or set of terms as brothers and sisters but use other terms for cross cousins.

Joint family: A social unit composed of the families of siblings or cousins.

Kinship terms: See Bifurcate merging: generation and lineal terms: Crow. Eskimo. Hawaiian. Iroquois and Omaha kinship terminology.

Lineage: A kinship group whose members trace their descent from a known common ancestor through one person in each generation. that person being of the same sex in each generation for all members.

Lineal Descent: Tracing one's descent through only one person in each generation. as in ambilineal and unilineal descent.

Lineal kinship terminology: The use of one term to refer to a parent and different terms for the parent's brothers and sisters.

Magic: The practice of specifically prescribed procedures for manipulating supernatural power.

Matrifocal family: A family consisting of mother and children.

Matrilineal descent: Reckoning one's ancestry through one female forebear in each generation.

Matrilocal extended family: A social unit composed of a senior married pair. their unmarried children. and married daughters with their husbands and children.

Matrilocal residence: Residence of a married couple with or near the wife's parents.

Moiety: One of two social units. each consisting of 'half' of a community or tribe and having reciprocal relationships with the opposite moiety.

Neolocal residence: Residence by a married couple in their own independently located household.

Nuclear family: The social unit of parents and children.

Omaha kinship terminology: Lumping members of one's mother's patrilineal descent group under a term for males and a term for females without regard to generation differences.

Parallel cousins: Cousins related to one another through the father's brother or the mother's sister.

Patrilineal descent: Reckoning one's ancestry through one male forebear in each generation.

Patrilocal extended family: A social unit composed of a senior married pair. their unmarried children. and married sons with their wives and children.

Patrilocal residence: Residence of a married couple with or near the husband's parents.

Phratry: One of three or more social components of a community or tribe, made up of two or more clans.

Polyandry: The concurrent marriage of one woman to two or more men.

Polygamy: Marriage involving multiple spouses, specifically polyandry, polygyny, or group marriage.

Ramage: A kinship group each of whose members can trace their relationship with a common ancestor through one person, male or female, in each generation.

Rites of passage: Rituals which accompany changes in personal and group status.

Segmentary lineage system: A hierarchical system of lineages that, in the absence of formal political leadership, may oppose one another in such a way as to resolve administrative questions.

Sharman: A religious specialist, male or female, with individual ability to communicate and deal with supernaturals, who applies this ability primarily as an individual rather than as the representative of a religious group.

Sorcery: Magic performed for evil purposes.

Sororal polygyny: Concurrent marriage of a man to sisters.

Sororate: The marriage of a woman to her deceased sister's husband.

Totemism: Complexes of customs relating to the notion of a mystical relationship between a group and an animal or plant species or other element of nature.

Tribe: A group of culturally similar communities within a given territory whose members think of themselves as belonging to the same cultural unit.

Unilinear descent: Tracing one's ancestry through one person in each generation when that person is the same sex in all generations.

Unilinear descent group: A kinship group whose members believe themselves to have descended from a common ancestor through forebears of one sex only.